

of which will be paid by middle class families, including penalties on people who don't buy insurance, penalties on employers who can't afford to cover their workers, and new taxes on Federal spending accounts, health savings accounts, insurance premiums, and medical devices.

The bill also includes about \$500 billion in Medicare cuts that will reduce seniors' access to doctors and to hospitals, and it will force millions out of their Medicare Advantage plans.

House Republicans support taking the first steps towards comprehensive reform that is focused on driving down costs for health care for all Americans.

EXPRESSING PRO-LIFE CONCERNS WITH PELOSI HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a strong believer in the dignity of all human life, I have worked to defend the rights of the unborn, but the Pelosi health care bill does not protect those rights.

The newly created public option will be authorized to fund elective abortions. The Pelosi health care bill does not include the pro-life language, which was offered and rejected in committee, to prohibit the Federal funding of abortion and of plans that include abortion. As the bill is written, Federal funds will pay for elective abortions.

This goes against a longstanding rule that government insurance programs, such as Medicaid or the Federal Employees Health Benefits, cannot cover elective abortions. Health care reform should be about improving the quality of life, not about taking it.

The National Right to Life Committee has expressed its concerns with this legislation as have thousands of residents from the Third District of Arkansas.

The respect for life needs to be a core value of our Nation, and it needs to be reflected in our national policies and health care reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the government takeover of our Nation's health care system. It would have a disastrous impact on women and their families. As moms, doctors, nurses, caregivers, and taxpayers, women play a critical role in the health care debate. Eighty-five percent of women are the primary health care decisionmakers in the home.

Women overwhelmingly support health care reform, but they don't want reform that will increase their health care costs, that will ration care or that will undermine their ability to make the best health care decisions for

their families. Speaker PELOSI's bill empowers government bureaucrats; it increases taxes, and it raises health insurance premiums while using Federal dollars to fund abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I support reform solutions that let women, not your government, take over, continue to decide what is best for their families.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I did a telephone town hall meeting, and I talked to thousands of my constituents. We had a poll. We asked the question:

Do you support the health care reform bill that was just introduced by Speaker NANCY PELOSI?

The results were overwhelming: 76 percent of the people responded "no." The reason is that what people are concerned about are the costs in health care today, and the people at home understand the fact that this is only going to raise their costs. The government-run plan, the takeover plan of our health insurance, actually is going to cost more than what private insurance costs today.

This isn't what was advertised. This isn't what people want. They don't want the government coming in, taking over their health insurance, changing their policies for them without their permission, cutting benefits to people on Medicare—people who need those benefits desperately. They're going to take those benefits away. This is not what the people wanted, and we're going to vote this bill down.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be here today after months and months of discussing the health care reform proposals with the people of America and particularly with those in my district in south Florida.

It's great to be here to talk about how, finally, we're going to deal with preexisting conditions and about how, finally, people who have mental illnesses and chronic illnesses won't have arbitrary caps on their insurance and about how, finally, small businesses, which are the heart of our total economic system, will be able to pool their purchasing power to bring their costs down.

Medicare is one of the most important programs in our country. It's about fixing the doughnut hole to reduce the costs for prescription drugs, which is the lifeblood of many Americans within our senior citizen population. This is what the American people want. I am very proud that we are

fixing the Medicare system and that we are making it last even longer than has been alleged by those on the other side.

It's about time we do something right to fix health care. This is the proposal.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we need to strengthen health care. We need to improve health care outcomes for all Americans, and we need to reduce costs, especially for families and small businesses, while protecting vulnerable persons. The question is how.

The current bill is very risky. It is nearly 2,000 pages and will cost \$1.3 trillion. It shifts the cost of what we have been doing to more government-run health care without reducing the cost drivers that have gotten us into the very circumstances we find ourselves in. It reduces the funding for important Medicare programs. It increases burdens on small businesses. It passes on costs to States, and it will reduce health care liberties for millions of Americans, including forced payment for abortion services.

The solutions: We should shift our health care culture to the focus of prevention and wellness. We should allow for commonsense reforms like the portability of insurance, the buying of insurance across State lines, the creating of new insurance risk pool models for small businesses and families, of appropriately addressing preexisting conditions, and of expanding opportunities for health savings accounts.

No one disputes the diagnosis. Our health care system must be strengthened. Let's get it right, Mr. Speaker.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I support changing and improving our health care delivery system, and there is a lot that can be done. Unfortunately, H.R. 3962, the Speaker's health care bill, does too much and too much wrong.

This nearly 2,000-page bill will create 111 new government boards, bureaucracies, and commissions. Additionally, the bill uses the word "shall," which is the government's way of saying people must do something, a whopping 3,425 times.

Instead of turning our entire health care system on its head and increasing government, we need to implement reforms that eliminate unnecessary costs in our system. Further, history shows that a government-run health care plan will be way more expensive than what is estimated today. The experience with health care entitlement programs is that they end up costing so

much more than ever thought. In 1967, experts predicted that the then-new Medicare program would cost \$12 billion in 1990. Actual Medicare spending in 1990 was \$110 billion.

Instead of growing government, increasing bureaucracy, and creating more requirements, we must invest in wellness and prevention and promote cost savings and personal responsibility. All of that will improve opportunities for Americans.

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HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this latest attempt at a government takeover of health care that has been proposed by Speaker PELOSI.

Now, this 1,990-page bill that has just been filed a few days ago by the Speaker adds up to over a trillion dollars of new spending. If you break this spending down, how much does this really cost? \$530 million per page, \$530 million per page.

What's in this bill? Sure enough, they still have components that allow a health care czar to take away your health care plan even if you like it. They still have over \$700 billion in new taxes on the backs of small businesses and families. Yes, as senior citizens know well, they still have over \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare.

Now, with all of these horrible provisions, this has nothing to do with health care reform. It is clearly an attempt at a government takeover of health care. In fact, this bill at \$530 million per page has been called the worst bill ever by The Wall Street Journal. Let's do real reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that we need to know about this health care bill that Speaker PELOSI is putting before the American people. It's what President Barack Obama's economic adviser Christina Romer said: simply this, if this bill passes it will mean 5.5 million job losses.

That's probably why the Wall Street Journal has called this the worse bill ever. Epic new spending and taxes, pricier insurance, rationed care, dishonest accounting, the Pelosi bill has it all, but even worse, in an already downbeat economy, 5.5 million jobs lost. Let's go with the positive alternative, which the Republicans have been happy to share with the President.

Let's pass a positive alternative for the American people and not have job loss.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 867) calling on the President and the Secretary of State to oppose unequivocally any endorsement or further consideration of the "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" in multilateral fora, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 867

Whereas, on January 12, 2009, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution A/HRC/S-9/L.1, which authorized a "fact-finding mission" regarding Israel's conduct of Operation Cast Lead against violent militants in the Gaza Strip between December 27, 2008, and January 18, 2009;

Whereas the resolution pre-judged the outcome of its investigation, by one-sidedly mandating the "fact-finding mission" to "investigate all violations of international human rights law and International Humanitarian Law by . . . Israel, against the Palestinian people . . . particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, due to the current aggression";

Whereas the mandate of the "fact-finding mission" makes no mention of the relentless rocket and mortar attacks, which numbered in the thousands and spanned a period of eight years, by Hamas and other violent militant groups in Gaza against civilian targets in Israel, that necessitated Israel's defensive measures;

Whereas the "fact-finding mission" included a member who, before joining the mission, had already declared Israel guilty of committing atrocities in Operation Cast Lead by signing a public letter on January 11, 2009, published in the Sunday Times, that called Israel's actions "war crimes";

Whereas the mission's flawed and biased mandate gave serious concern to many United Nations Human Rights Council Member States which refused to support it, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Whereas the mission's flawed and biased mandate troubled many distinguished individuals who refused invitations to head the mission;

Whereas Justice Richard Goldstone, who chaired the "United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict", told the then-President of the UNHRC, Nigerian Ambassador Martin Ihoeoghian Uhomoibhi, that he

intended to broaden the mandate of the Mission to include "all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed at any time in the context of the military operations that were conducted in Gaza during the period from 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, whether before, during or after", a phrase that, according to Justice Goldstone, was intended to allow him to investigate Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians;

Whereas Ambassador Uhomoibhi issued a statement on April 3, 2009, that endorsed part of Justice Goldstone's proposed broadened mandate but deleted the phrase "before, during, and after", and added inflammatory anti-Israeli language;

Whereas a so-called broadened mandate was never officially endorsed by a plenary meeting of the UNHRC, neither in the form proposed by Justice Goldstone nor in the form proposed by Ambassador Uhomoibhi;

Whereas, on September 15, 2009, the "United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" released its report;

Whereas the report repeatedly made sweeping and unsubstantiated determinations that the Israeli military had deliberately attacked civilians during Operation Cast Lead;

Whereas the authors of the report admit that "we did not deal with the issues . . . regarding the problems of conducting military operations in civilian areas and second-guessing decisions made by soldiers and their commanding officers 'in the fog of war.'";

Whereas in the October 16th edition of the Jewish Daily Forward, Richard Goldstone, the head of the "United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict", is quoted as saying, with respect to the mission's evidence-collection methods, "If this was a court of law, there would have been nothing proven.";

Whereas the report, in effect, denied the State of Israel the right to self-defense, and never noted the fact that Israel had the right to defend its citizens from the repeated violent attacks committed against civilian targets in southern Israel by Hamas and other Foreign Terrorist Organizations operating from Gaza;

Whereas the report largely ignored the culpability of the Government of Iran and the Government of Syria, both of whom sponsor Hamas and other Foreign Terrorist Organizations;

Whereas the report usually considered public statements made by Israeli officials not to be credible, while frequently giving uncritical credence to statements taken from what it called the "Gaza authorities", i.e. the Gaza leadership of Hamas;

Whereas, notwithstanding a great body of evidence that Hamas and other violent Islamist groups committed war crimes by using civilians and civilian institutions, such as mosques, schools, and hospitals, as shields, the report repeatedly downplayed or cast doubt upon that claim;

Whereas in one notable instance, the report stated that it did not consider the admission of a Hamas official that Hamas often "created a human shield of women, children, the elderly and the mujahideen, against [the Israeli military]" specifically to "constitute evidence that Hamas forced Palestinian civilians to shield military objectives against attack.";

Whereas Hamas was able to significantly shape the findings of the investigation mission's report by selecting and prescreening some of the witnesses and intimidating others, as the report acknowledges when it notes that "those interviewed in Gaza appeared reluctant to speak about the presence